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International Court of Justice

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19 June 1946
Mohr

H0965 - 0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

Noll
19 June 1946
Mohr

19 June 1946

CORPS OF POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission reconvened at ~~1~~ 1530 hours)

COMMISSIONER: MR. GEORGE R. TAYLOR

JOHANN ADAM MOHR, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY MR. TAYLOR:

Q. Will the witness rise. Will you state your name to the court.

A. Johann Adam Mohr.

Q. Will you raise your right hand and repeat the oath after me:

"I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the whole truth and will withhold and hide nothing."

(The witness repeats the oath)

MR. TAYLOR: Dr. Link, will you give the Commission a summary of what you intend to prove by this witness, please.

BY DR. LINK: Yes. The witness was holding an important office in the agrarpolitik structure of the Party from 1942 to 1945. He, therefore, is in a position to give a definite picture of the farm organizations. It is my intention to prove by this witness that, as far as there were representatives of the farmers in the staff of the kreisleiter and gauleiter, that they were fulfilling only the functions of professional experts and that they were not allowed to be political workers. I, finally, wish to prove by the witness that the members of those staffs could not be considered political leiters in the sense of the indictment, and that nonе of them was part of any of the actions considered criminal by the Prosecution.

By Mr. Taylor - Thank you, proceed with the witness.

Q. When and ~~xxx~~ where were you born, Witness?

A. I was born on 21 November 1896 in Michelyied in Bavaria.

Q. What is your occupation?

A. I was ~~xxx~~ a practicing farmer.

Q. When did you become a member of the Nazi Party?

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A. On January 1, 1932.

Q. Why?

A. Previous to that date I wrote an article about the worries and concerns

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of farmers. I published that in a magazine called "Gelbe Hefte", and as a result of that article, which was much discussed, Party circles tried to get me as a member. And the conditions as they developed around the end of 1931 made me join the Nazi Party.

Q. You are supposed to be informed about the set-up of two organizations, one called "Reichsnaehrstand" and the other "Agrarpolitik." [redacted]

A. Both are organizations concerned with farmers and feeding problems. I was connected with those organizations since the early spring of 1932. I cannot remember an exact date.

Q. How did it happen that you got into contact with those two organizations?

A. The gaufachberater Heiden in Hammelburg came to me and persuaded me to join up. That Mr. Heiden was a teacher of economics at the state school in Hammelburg.

Q. Were you hesitating in the beginning to join up?

A. Heiden had to talk to me for many hours before I was prepared to accept office.

Q. About what did you talk with Heiden?

A. At first it was my impression that it would be the right of the kreisleiter to whom I should be co-ordinated, that he should have the right to give me professional instructions in the field of farming. Heiden explained to me that it wouldn't be that way at all, that all professional instructions regarding my profession would reach me through Gaufachberater Heiden and that he, in turn, would receive his professional instructions from Minister Darre--who was Minister of Economics at that time.

Q. Kindly give me a picture of the structure of the farmers' organizations.

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particularly in conjunction with the Party.

WITNESS: May I be a little more elaborate, or must I be quite brief?

By DR. LINK: Be as brief as possible, but as elaborate as necessary.

A. There existed as a professional organization of the farmers a parliamentary body which was called "bauernkammer" in Southern Germany, and which was called "landwirtschaftskammer" in Northern Germany. In connection with those, there existed political movements of the Party, so-called "Christian Farmers' Association", "German Land Bund", and, in Southern Germany, an organization called "Bauernbund."

Q. When did Hitler and the Nazi Party begin to be interested in organizing the farmers?

A. I assume that was in 1930, when Hitler ordered Darre to organize the farmers professionally, and that was done by setting up an organization called "Agrarpolitischer Apparat."

A. In 1933 a law was issued which set up the Reichsnaehrstand, which became the uniform and the only organization of all farmers; and all above-mentioned farmers' organizations were incorporated in that one Reichsnaehrstand.

Q. Is it correct that the Reichsnaehrstand was a corporation of public law?

A. Yes.

Q. And the organization called "Agrarpolitischer Apparat" preceded the Reichsnaehrstand?

A. Yes.

Q. And what were the connections existing between the Reichsnaehrstand and the Agrarpolitischer Apparat? First, I would like to ask you, what was the connection of the Agrarpolitischer Apparat, as organized and set up by Darre?

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A. In the offices of each hoheitstraeger of the Party (kreisleiter, gauleiter, or ortsgruppenleiter) there was a coordinated advisor on farmers' affairs.

Q. What were his tasks?

A. His task was a task of counselling the hoheitstraeger about the problems of the farmers and informing the farmers of the position of the Party on farmers' affairs and, in addition to that twofold function of counselling, the expert counselled individual farmers on their problems.

Q. And when, now, the new organization of the Reichsnaehrstand was added, what were the connections existing between the Reichsnaehrstand and the Agrarpolitischer Apparat?

A. In most cases the officeholders were the same person in the Agrarpolitischer Apparat and in the Reichsnaehrstand. That means that the advisor on farmers' problems in the office of the Party hoheitstraeger became the official of the Reichsnaehrstand in the same area--mostly with the title of landesbauernfuehrer; or, if there were more offices than one, he had the title of hauptadteilungsleiter. The counseller of the kreisleiter who had the title of kreisfachbeiter became, in most cases, kreisbauernfuehrer. And the same relationship existed on the level of the ortsgruppe, where the ortsfachbeiter became ortsbauernfuehrer.

Q. To repeat--the landesbauernfuehrer, the kreisbauernfuehrer, and the ortsbauernfuehrer were the instruments of the organization, the Reichsnaehrstand?

A. Yes.

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Q. And did that structure remain unchanged until the end ~~x~~ in 1945?

A. Essentially, yes.

Q. If I am informed correctly, a new organization developed later.

A. Since certain difficulties existed and increased in the office of the Reichsminister ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ and leader ~~xxxx~~ of the farmers Darre, already before 1942 rumors were spread that he would have to resign; and he actually did resign in 1942. The old organization called Agrarpolitischer Apparat was dissolved in 1942 when Darre resigned, and Reichsleiter Bormann created a new office called amt fuer das Landvolk, office for the farmers, in 1942.

Q. Did that new development change the effect that the advisors to the Party officials on the different levels were identical with the representatives of the Reichsnaehrstand? Was that changed, or was there a change of personnel?

A. In practically no case was that ~~identity~~ identity of personnel ~~changed~~ maintained.

Q. Did that mean that Bormann's attack against the independent organizations of the farmers was ~~ineffective~~ ineffective?

A. Practically, yes.

Q. I shall come back to that point. I would like to know now which office you were holding in the Agrarpolitischer Apparat or the amt fuer das ~~Landvolk~~ Landvolk or the Reichsnaehrstand.

A. Beginning in the spring of 1932, I was ~~Landvolk~~ landwirtschaftlicher kreisfachberater. That means the counsellor of the kreisleiter in farmers' ~~Parkhausfeinfeld~~ affairs. Then, in 1934, I became at first deputy, then gaufachberater at Wurzburg. Then, when the Agrarpolitischer Apparat was dissolved in 1942, I was carried on as gauamtsleiter for the landvolk; and then I carried on until the end in 1945.

Q. What position were you holding in the Reichsnaehrstand?

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A. From 1934 to 1936 I was kreisbauernfuehrer/--That means leader of the farmers--at Aschaffenburg. From 1944 until the end of the war I was landes-hauptabteilungsleiter at Munich--at first leiter of Section 1, and then leiter of Section 2.

Q. Since you have held such a large variety of offices on different levels, I assume that you are sufficiently well informed to speak for the farmer's profession on different levels in different districts, and that, therefore, your answers would be valuable not only for you but for your district.

A. My work carried me often beyond the State of Bavaria, and I frequently went to Berlin, where I often had occasion to converse with colleagues and comrades from other kreis and gau landes. We exchanged experiences, and therefore I consider myself fairly well qualified to talk for them too.

Q. You said that the officeholders of, at first, the Agrarpolitischer Apparat and, later, its successor, the amtsfuer das Landvolk, were the expert advisors to the Party officials on the various levels. From which source did they receive their directives?

A. I received my instructions from the Reich amtsfuehrer fuer Agrarpolitik, and later from its successor the Reichsamtsfuehrer fuer das Landvolk. As far as the Reichsnaehrstand was concerned, I was the director from the head office in Berlin.

Q. That would mean, from your professional superiors?

A. Yes.

Q. Would it, therefore, be fair to call those expert advisors on the different levels, staff officials of the kreisleiter?

A. Certainly that would be a misnomer.

Q. Why?

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A. We didn't have any political leadership function.

Q. How would you define the kreis and gau staff?

A. Based on my experience, I would define the staff of the gauleiter as follows: It was composed of a number of gauamtleiters who were located at the office of the gauleiter and who were, as a rule, full-time employees who could come to conferences whenever required on short notice.

Q. Do you think it would be fair to distinguish between an inner circle and an enlarged circle of staff officers?

A. That would be not only proper, but it would be actually as it was in practice.

~~Q. Will you please tell who were assigned to the inner circle and the enlarged circle?~~

Q. Who were the members of the inner and enlarged circles?

A. In the inner circle I would include the deputy gauleiter, the gau-stabsamtleiter, the leiters of the training system, personnel department, propaganda, and the press.

Q. And the enlarged circle?

A. In the enlarged circle, I would count the following: The man in charge of the Agrarpolitischer Apparat, the man in charge of the NSV, the man in charge of the Community Politics Office, the man in charge of technique, the man in charge of students and teachers, the regierungspraesident, the commander of the army in the area, the leiter of the gau arbeitsamt, the man in charge of forests, the man in charge of the economic chamber, and the president of the gau labor office.

Q. You are distinguishing, apparently, between three circles--the inner circle composed of people who had the tasks of a political nature, the enlarged circle consisting of people attached to the staff--of a professional

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nature, and an even further remote circle of State officials who participated in staff work.

A. Yes.

Q. And you would say that the second and third circles, so to say, belong together, as contrasted to the first circle?

A. Yes.

Q. How often did the enlarged staff hold sessions?

A. Just as was needed, approximately every month or every second or third month.

Q. And in those conferences the second and third circles would participate?

A. Yes, and the first circle.

Q. But the second and third circles did not participate in conferences with the inner circle?

A. No; I should keep them distinctly separate.

Q. And what did you discuss at those conferences of the enlarged staff?

A. All questions concerning the kreis or gau.

Q. Were those conferences secret?

A. The public press was invited to those conferences; and the next day or the day after, reports about those conferences were in the public press.

Q. Did those professional advisors of the Agrarpolitischer Apparat contribute to the reports which had to be rendered periodically; and, if they did, what kind of contributions did they make?

A. Originally they were supposed to give such reports, but after the creation of the Reichsnaehrstand the officeholder of the Reichsnaehrstand simply passed on a copy of his monthly report to the Party hoheitstraeger.

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Q. You are referring to reports given in regard to the current problems of the farmers?

A. All questions of concern to the farmers were dealt with in such reports.

Q. Those officeholders ~~dk~~--did they have a staff of their own in those offices?

A. Originally they had some secretary to do the paper work, but later that office was eliminated when the functions were absorbed by the haupt~~xxxx~~abteilung I of the Reichsnaehrstand.

Q. Of course, ~~if~~when I am referring to the staff, I am not thinking of clerical help. Before me I have the so-called ~~x~~ Organizations Book of the Nazi Party, which has been produced by the Prosecution. It contains a plan showing the organization of the Agrarpoliti scher Apparat, with a number of hauptstelle, main offices and subdivisions. Do you know the Organizations Book of the Party?

A. No, I don't have a real knowledge of it.

Q. Do you know that there are ~~xxx~~ hauptstelle listed?

A. Darre tried to revitalize the Agrarpoliti scher Apparat. I don't remember the year, but ~~x~~ it might be that that scheme was drafted around that time. As far as my gau was concerned, I am prepared to state that I spent the week in Munich and returned to my estate on the weekend, and I didn't have any assistants.

Q. But you say you spent the week in Munich. May I understand that you were working ~~their~~ here for the Reichsnaehrstand?

A. Yes.

Q. ~~Of~~ Or, if I may add, for your State office which you were holding at the same time?

A. Yes.

Q. Should I conclude that you were not occupied all the week as an

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officeholder of the Party organization, the Agrarpolitischer Apparat ?

A. Not even two hours a week.

Q. You seem to say that, as far as your gau was concerned, those hauptstelle the Organizations Book speaks of did not exist?

A. In 1934 there was some talk that there should be an advisor on forestry, but I never saw such an official and I don't know whether he fulfilled his function.

Q. The Organizations Book claims that you had as landwirtschaftlicher advisor in farmers' affairs, you had your office and then below yourself you were supposed to have subdivisions (so-called "hauptstelle") concerned with the following questions: the press and propaganda, farmers' culture, questions of the blood of German farmers, farmers' training, agricultural economics, and personnel--also farmers' settlements and farmers' legal problems, as well as farmers' employees. The question was, did you have such sub-offices in your office?

A. I had, at my estate at home, one young man who did all the paper work as far as the Reichsnaehrstand was concerned. If any work for the Party was necessary, he did that too; but none of the offices which you just listed were filled.

Q. And since you have a knowledge of the situation as it existed in other parts of the country, would you say that such hauptstelle existed in any other gaus?

A. I do not know. I do not think that those offices were filled in other places.

~~Q. In accordance with the totalitarian claim of the Nazi Party, every individual was subordinated to the gauleiter, kreisleiter, or ortsgruppenleiter~~

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Q. Those landwirtschaftlicherberater, counsellors of the farmers affairs, at least they were subordinated in disciplinary matters to Party officials, weren't they?

A. In accordance with the totalitarian claim of the Nazi Party, every individual was subordinated to the gauleiter, kreisleiter, or ortsgruppenleiter, and, in my opinion, that was an automatic subordination.

Q. Would you say that they were no more subordinated to the hoheitstraeger then any other Party member who did not hold any office or did not have any rank?

A. I didn't evaluate it differently at any time.

Q. Didn't you have to pass so-called political judgments,or didn't you have a hand in formulating them?

A. We were not permitted to give those political judgments.

Q. How was it if a political assistant was fired for political reasons; were you asked to give your opinion in the matter?

A. The question is not quite clear to me.

Q. It happened, didn't it, that people in the general field of farmers' work were considered unreliable by Party officials, and were discharged? Was such a discharge performed only after you had been consulted?

A. If you are concerned, and I don't know whether you are, with the State officials in the farmers' field--then we weren't asked at all in regard to their political affiliation.

Q. Did it happen that such expert advisors were surprised by dismissal, and that, after such dismissal, they occasionally protested against it?

A. I do not know of dismissals in the narrow sense of the word, but I do know that advancements were not made in relation to political reasons.

(The Commission adjourned at 1650 hours.)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of JOHANN ADAM MOHR, taken on 19 June 1946.

Reporter

Dorothy J. Noll

Reporter

CERTIFIED TO: Geo R. Taylor

Commissioner

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

CORPS OF POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission reconvened at 1530 hours.)

COMMISSIONER: MR. GEORGE TAYLOR

JOHANN ADAM MOHR, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY MR. TAYLOR:

Q "ill the witness rise. "ill you state your name to the court.

A Johann Adam Mohr.

Q "ill you raise your right hand and repeat the oath after me:

"Iswear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the whole truth and will withhold and hide nothing."

(The witness repeats the oath.)

MR. TAYLOR: Dr. Link, will you give the Commission a summary of what you intend to prove by this witness, please.

BY DR. LINK: Yes. The witness was holding an important office in the agrarpolitik structure of the Party from 1942 to 1945. He, therefore, is in a position to give a definite picture of the farm organizations. It is my intention to prove by this witness that, as far as there were representatives of the farmers in the staff of the kreisleiter and gauleiter, that they were fulfilling only the functions of professional experts and that they were not allowed to be political workers. I, finally, wish to prove by the witness that the members of those staffs could not be considered political leiters in the sense of the indictment, and that none of them was part of any of the actions considered criminal by the Prosecution.

BY MR. TAYLOR: Thank you, proceed with the witness.

Q When and where were you born, Witness?

A I was born on 21 November 1896 in Michelvied in Bavaria.

Q What is your occupation?

A I was a practicing farmer.

Q When did you become a member of the Nazi Party?

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A On January 1, 1932.

Q Why?

A Previous to that date I wrote an article about the worries and concerns of farmers. I published that in a magazine called "Gelbe Hefte", and as a result of that article, which was much discussed, Party circles tried to get me as a member. And the conditions as they developed around the end of 1931 made me join the Nazi Party.

Q You are supposed to be informed about the set-up of two organizations, one called "Reichsnaehrstand" and the other "Agrarpolitik."

A Both are organizations concerned with farmers and feeding problems. I was connected with those organizations since the early spring of 1932. I cannot remember an exact date.

Q How did it happen that you got into contact with those two organizations?

A The gaufachberater Heiden in Hammelburg came to me and persuaded me to join up. That Mr. Heiden was a teacher of economics at the state school in Hammelburg.

Q Were you hesitating in the beginning to join up?

A Heiden had to talk to me for many hours before I was prepared to accept office.

Q About what did you talk with Heiden?

A At first it was my impression that it would be the right of the kreisleiter to whom I should be co-ordinated, that he should have the right to give me professional instructions in the field of farming. Heiden explained to me that it wouldn't be that way at all, that all professional instructions regarding my profession would reach me through Gaufachberater Heiden and that he, in turn, would receive his professional instructions from Minister Darre--who was Minister of Economics at that time.

Q Kindly give me a picture of the structure of the farmers' organizations, particularly in conjunction with the Party.

WITNESS: May I be a little more elaborate, or must I be quite brief?

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BY DR. LINK: Be as brief as possible, but as elaborate as necessary.

A There existed as a professional organization of the farmers a parliamentary body which was called "bauernkammer" in Southern Germnay, and which was called "landwirschaftskammer" in Northern Germany. In connection with those, there existed political movements of the Party, so-called "Christian Farmers" Association", "German Land Bund", and, in Southern Germany, an organization called "Bauernbund."

Q When did Hitler and the Nazi Party begin to be interested in organizing the farmers?

A I assume that was in 1930, when Hitler ordered Darre to organize the farmers professionally, and that was done by setting up an organization called "Agrarpolitischer Apparat."

A In 1933 a law was issued which set up the Reichsnaehrstand, which became the uniform and the only organization of all farmers; and all above-mentioned farmers' organizations were incorporated in that one Reichsnaehrstand

Q Is it correct that the Reichsnaehrstand was a corporation of public law?

A Yes.

Q And the organization called "Agrarpolitischer Apparat" preceded the Reichsnaehrstand?

A Yes.

Q And what were the connections existing between the Reichsnaehrstand and the Agrarpolitischer Apparat? First, I would like to ask you, what was the connection of the Agrarpolitischer Apparat, as organized and set up by Darre?

A In the offices of each hoheitstraeger of the Party (kreisleiter, gauleiter, or ortsgruppenleiter) there was a coordinated advisor on farmers' affairs.

Q What were his tasks?

A His task was a task of counselling the hoheitstraeger about the problems of the farmers and informing the farmers of theposition of the Party on farmers' affairs and, in addition to that twofold function of counselling, the expert counselled individual farmers on their problems.

Q And when, now, the new organization of the Reichsnaehrstand was added, what were the connections existing between the Reichsnaehrstand and the Agrapolitischer Apparat?

A Ih most cases the officeholders were the same person in the Agrar-politischer Apparat and in the Reichsnaehrstand. That means that the advisor on farmers' problems in the office of the Party hoheitstraeger became the official of the Reichsnaehrstand in the same area--mostly with the title of landesbauernfuehrer; or, if there were more offices than one, he had the title of hauptadteilungsleiter. The counsellor of the kreisleiter who had the title of kreisfachbeiter became, in most cases, kreisbauernfuehrer. And the same relationship existed on the level of the ortsgruppe, where the ortsfachbeiter became ortsbauernfuehrer.

Q To repeat -- the landesbauernfuehrer, the kreisbauernfuehrer, and the ortsbauernfuehrer were the instruments of the organization, the Reichs-naehrstand?

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A Yes.

Q And did that structure remain unchanged until the end in 1945?

A Essentially, yes.

Q If I am informed correctly, a new organization developed later.

A Since certain difficulties existed and increased in the office of the Reichsminister and leader of the farmers Darre, already before 1942 rumors were spread that he would have to resign; and he actually did resign in 1942. The old organization called Agrarpolitischer Apparat was dissolved in 1942 when Darre resigned, and Reichsleiter Bormann created a new office called amt fuer das Landvolk, office for the farmers, in 1942.

Q Did that new development change the effect that the advisors to the Party officials on the different levels were identical with the representatives

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of the Reichsnaehrstand? Was that changed, or was there a change of personnel?

A In practically no case was that identidy of personnel maintained.

Q Did that mean thatBormann's attack against the independent organizations of the farmers was ineffective?

A Practically, yes.

Q I shall come back to that point. I would like to know now which office you were holding in the Agrarpolitischer Apparat or the amt fuer das andvolk or the Reichsnaehrstand.

A Beginning in the spring of 1932, I was landwirtschaftlicher kreisfachberater. That means the counsellor of the kreisleiter in farmers' affairs. Then, in 1934, I becae a first daputy, then gaufachberater at Wurzburg. Then, when the Agrapolitischer Apparat was dissolved in 1942, I was carried on as guaamtsleiter for the landvolk; and then I carried on until the end in 1945.

Q What position were you holding in the Reichsnaehrstand?

A From 1934 to 1936 I was kreisbauernfuehrer--that means leader of the farmers' -- at Aschaffenburg. From 1944 until the end of the war I was landeshaupteilungsleiter at Munich--at first leiter of Section 1, and then leiter of Section 2.

Q Since you have held such a large variety of offices on different levels, I assume that you are sufficiently well informed to speak for the farmer's profession on different levels in different districts, and that, therefore, your answers would be valuable not only for you but for your district.

A My work carried me often beyond the State of Bavaria, and I frequently went to Berlin, where I often had occasion to converse with colleagues and comrades from other kreis and gau landes. We exchanged experiences, and therefore I consider myself fairly well qualified to talk for them, too.

Q You said that the officeholders, of, at first, theAgrarpolitischer Apparat and later, its successor, the amtsfuer das Landvolk , were the expert advisors to the Party officials on thevarious levels. From which source did they receive their directives?

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A I received my instructions from the Reichs amtsfuer Agrarpolitik and later from its successor the Reichsamtfuer das Landvolk. As far as the Reichsnaehrstand was concerned, I was the director from the head office in Berlin.

Q That would mean, from your professional superiors?

A Yes.

Q Would it, therefore, be fair to call those expert advisors on the different levels, staff officials of the kreisleiter?

A Certainly that would be a misnomer.

Q Why?

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A We didn't have any political leadership function.

Q How would you define the kreis and gau staff?

A Based on my experience, I would define the staff of the gauleiter as follows: It was composed of a number of gauamtleiters who were located at the office of the gauleiter and who were, as a rule, full-time employees who could come to conferences whenever required on short notice.

Q Do you think it would be fair to distinguish between an inner circle and an enlarged circle of staff officers?

A That would be not only proper, but it would be actually as it was in practice.

Q Who were the members of the inner and enlarged circles?

A In the inner circle I would include the deputy gauleiter, the gaustabsamtleiter, the leiters of the training system, personnel department, propaganda and the press.

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Q You are distinguishing, apparently, between three circles --the inner circle composed of people who had the tasks of a political nature, the enlarged circle consisting of people attached to the staff--of a professional nature, and an even further remote circle of State officials who participated in staff work.

A Yes.

Q And you would say that the second and third circles, so to say, belong together, as contrasted to the first circle?

A Yes.

Q How often did the enlarged staff hold sessions?

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A Just as was needed, approximately every month or every second or third month.

Q And in those conferences the second and third circles would participate?

A Yes, and the first circle.

Q But the second and third circles did not participate in conferences with the inner circle?

A No; I should keep them distinctly separate.

Q And what did you discuss at those conferences of the enlarged staff?

A All questions concerning the kreis or gau.

Q Were those conferences secret?

A The public press was invited to those conferences; and the next day or the day after, reports about those conferences were in the public press.

Q Did those professional advisors of the Agrarpolitischer Apparat contribute to the reports which had to be rendered periodically; and, if they did, what kind of contributions did they make

A Originally they were supposed to give such reports, but after the creation of the Reichsnaehrstand the officeholder of the Reichsnaehrstand simply passed on a copy of his monthly report to the Party hoheitstraeger.

Q You are referring to reports given in regard to the current problems of the farmers?

A All questions of concern to the farmers were dealt with in such reports.

Q Those office holders -- did they have a staff of their own in those offices?

A Originally they had some secretary to do the paper work, but later that office was eliminated when the functions were absorbed by the haupabteilung I of the Reichsnaehrstand.

Q Of course, when I am referring to the staff, I am not thinking of clerical help. Before me I have the so-called Organiz tions Book of the Nazi Party, which has been produced by the

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Prosecution. It contains a plan showing the organization of the Agrarpolitischer Apparat, with a number of hauptstelle, main offic and subdivisions. Do you know the Organizations Book of the Party

A No, I don't have a real knowledge of it.

Q Do you know that there are hauptstelle listed?

A Darre tried to revitalize the Agrarpolitischer Apparat. I don't remember the year, but it might be that that scheme was drafted around that time. As far as my gau was concerned, I am prepared to state that I spent the week in Munich and returned to my estate on the weekend, and I didn't have any assistants.

Q But you say you spent the week in Munich. May I understand that you were working there for the Reichsnaehrstand?

A Yes.

Q Or, if I may add, for your State office which you were holding at the same time?

A Yes.

Q Should I conclude that you were not occupied all the week as an

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officcholder of the Party organization, the Agrarpolitischer Apparat ?

A. Not even two hours a week.

Q. You seem to say that, as far as your gau was concerned, those hauptstelle the Organizations Book speaks of did not exist ?

A. In 1934 there was some talk that there should be an advisor on forestr but I never saw such an official and I don't know whether he fulfilled his function.

Q. The Organizations Book claims that you had as landwirtschaftlicher berater advisor in farmers' affairs, you had your office and then below yourself you were supposed to have subdivisions (so-called "hauptstelle") concerned with the following questions : the press and propaganda, farmers' culture, questions of the blood of German farmers, farmers' training, agricultural economics, and personel -also farmers' settlements and farmers' legal problems, as well as farmers' employees. The question was, did you have such sub- ffices in your office ?

A. I had, at my estate at home, one young man who did all the paper work as far as the Reichsnaehrstand was concerned. If any work for the Party was necessary, he did that too; but none of the offices which you just listed were filled.

Q. And since you have a knowledge of the situation as it existed in othe parts of the country, would you say that such hauptstelle existed in any other gaus ?

A. I do not know. I do not think that those offices were filled in othe places.

Q. Those landwirtschaftlicherberater counsellors of the farmers affairs, at least they were subordinated in disciplinary matters to Party officials. weren't they ?

A. In accordance with the totalitarian claim of the Nazi Party, every individual was subordinated to the gauleiter, kreisleiter, or ortsgruppenle ter, and, in my opinion, that was an automatic subordination.

Q. Would you say that they were no more subordinated to the hoheitstra ger then any other Party member who did not hold any office or did not hav any rank ?

A. I didn't evaluate it differently at any time.

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Q. Didn't you have to pass so-called political judgments, or didn't you have a hand in formulating them ?

A. We were not permitted to give those political judgments.

Q. How was it if a political assistans was fired for political reasons; were you asked to give your opinion in the matter ?

A. The question is not quite clear to me .

Q. It happened, didn't it, that people in the general field of farmers' work were considered unreliable by Party officials, and were discharged ? Was such a discharge performed only after you had been consulted ?

A. If you are concerned, and I don't know whether you are, with the State officials in the farmers' field -- then we weren't asked at all in regard to their political affiliation.

Q. Did it happen that such expert advisors were surprised by dismissal ? and that after such dismissal, they occasionally protested against it ?

A. I do not know of dismissals in the narrow sense of the word, but I do know that advancements were not made in relation to political reasons.

(The Commission adjourned at 1650 hours).

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of JOHANN ADAM MOHR, taken on 19 June 1946.

Reporter

Dorothy J. Noll

Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

George R. Taylor

Commissioner